

SCARBOROUGH MARITIME HERITAGE CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT

April 2017 – April 2018



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Registered Charity 1144532

Company number 0675517

The Scarborough Maritime Heritage Centre (SMHC) is managed, overseen and administered in accordance with its charitable constitution and its memorandum of association and articles of association.

Directors

M. Vesey, R. L. Rowley, D. Normandale, J.R.F. Spencer.

Trustees

M. Vesey, R. L. Rowley, D. Normandale, J.R.F. Spencer,
Captain P Simpson MN, H. Roberts, B. Roberts.

Committee

M. Vesey, R. L. Rowley, D. Normandale, J.R.F. Spencer, L. Auckland,
J. Roberts, A Roberts, J King, S. Kirby, G. Smith.

President

Mr J Martin Johnson JP, BA, IEng, IMarEng, MIMarEST

Patrons

Earl of Burford, Lady Caroline French Blake, Lord John Beauclerk

Objectives

To educate the public about the maritime history of Scarborough. To record and preserve the skills and knowledge of our fishing, boat building and sea faring community that are being lost. To carefully store, restore and display all memorabilia and exhibits donated to the Centre. To stage exhibitions and events that involve all of the community.

Chairman's report

The trustees have monitored the activities undertaken by the SMHC from April 2017 to March 2018 and agree that they meet the charitable aims of educating the public. Our principal activity has been the provision of exhibitions and to give talks to community groups and schools. Volunteers from the community have been involved in all aspects of our work, helping them gain new skills and confidence, build friendships and overcome social isolation. We welcomed over 5600 visitors and our guest sheets have many praiseworthy comments. Our website is continually updated with new information and we receive over 5000 new viewings a month.

We continue to be a part of the UK Children's University Network and attended their graduation ceremony at the Spa. We also worked in partnership with the Scarborough Sub-Aqua Club to deliver several events. During the year volunteers have given talks to community groups and schools, including groups of unemployed teenagers. Our oldest volunteer celebrated her 85th birthday whilst our youngest had his 21st.

Members of the public continue to donate valuable memorabilia that our volunteers catalogue, preserve and display. Volunteers help answer family and local history enquiries from residents and from around the world via the Internet. We have been acknowledged for help given in several new books published.

We have distributed over 10,000 publicity leaflets throughout the borough and have featured in dozens of newspaper articles. We supported the Friends of Dean Road & Manor Road Cemetery with their Spring Fair raising awareness and much needed funds.

We are providing many local history books to the public on behalf of the Civic Society and Historical Society plus other local authors who have written about Scarborough and its famous residents. The SMHC receives a small donation for each book sold.

In partnership with the Scarborough News we have published a monthly article about an object in the SMHC collection. Volunteers wrote these articles. In partnership with the North Yorkshire County Council we helped with a new walking trail guide available online.

Our trustees have been busy keeping our charity policies and risk assessment up to date including the new data protection guidelines, whistleblowing, complaints, volunteers, safeguarding & financial reserves policies. All these are available to view in the SMHC and on our website. Each trustee has completed a declaration of interest statement.

From April to June our exhibition looked at life in the old town using old photos and maps. We invited visitors to add their own memories and photos.

The Albert Strange Association held its AGM in Scarborough and many of their members visited us for the first time. The SMHC is an honorary member of the Association and attended their AGM in Woodend.

In June we supported the Armed Forces Day and in July we put on another exhibition for Scarborough's Seafest event that attracted over 10,000 visitors. Over the summer we put on maritime heritage information stands at Scarborough Castle's war weekend event, the Scarborough Library Heritage Day and the general Heritage Open Days. We put up historic information banners in an empty town centre shop front and we took part in a TV documentary with Michael Portillo.

From July to September our exhibition focussed on Scarborough born Vice-Admiral Sir John Lawson (1615 – 1665). A new book had been published and we arranged for the author to give a public talk in Scarborough about this little known but important historical figure.

From October to January our exhibition was on fishermen's ganseys and a drop in workshop was held. SMHC chair and vice-chair attended the national maritime curators conference in Hull. Over the Christmas period volunteers carried out a deep clean of SMHC ready for the New Year. From February to April the exhibition looked at 110 years of the Marine Drive and was put on with the help of the local council and the Archaeological & Historical Society.

2018 marks the centenary of the end of WW1 and the death of the soldier and poet, Wilfred Owen. Owen stayed in Scarborough and the SMHC provided support to the centenary event organisers.

We look forward to another busy year and especially commemorating the centenary of the end of WW1 in November 2018.

The SMHC is a member of the Welcome to Yorkshire tourism agency and the Coast & Vale Community Action group. We have public liability insurance.

We would like to thank everyone who supported us this year and especially our volunteers who gave up their valuable time to make it all possible.

Funding

We continue to receive donations from visitors and members as well as from giving talks to groups. Our tenant continues to pay our Charity Bank mortgage loan. Our largest annual expense is the rental of an off-site overflow storeroom.